

GLUE EAR AND COMMUNICATION

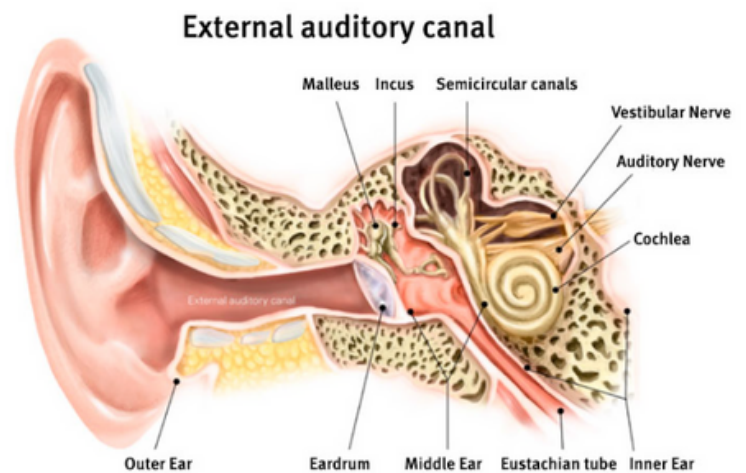
What is Glue Ear?

Glue ear is a build up of glue-like fluid in the middle ear. This causes dulled hearing.

7 in 10 children experience at least one episode of glue ear before the age of 4.

Children with glue ear experience different degrees of hearing loss. There may be no loss of hearing at all, or it may be quite severe.

The level of hearing loss may change from day to day.



How can it impact on communication?

Children with glue ear:

- May have difficulty with **attention and listening**. They may appear inattentive or prone to day dreaming. Or they may seem to be hearing only when they want to!
- Can become **quiet** and **withdrawn**
- May be **frustrated**, over-active or have temper tantrums as their hearing level fluctuates
- Might **mispronounce** sounds or words and speak less clearly
- May hear the same word **differently** on different occasions. This can make it difficult for them to **learn new words**

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How can you help a child with glue ear?

Reduce background noise by shutting doors/windows, turning off background music and increasing soft furnishings.



Make sure you have the child's attention before you start interacting. Try to get down to the child's eye level and always interact face-to-face in good lighting.

If the child makes a speech sound error, model back the correct version so they can hear how it sounds, e.g.:

Child: "dat my dar"

Adult: "yes, **that's** your car!"

Listening with Glue Ear is hard work and tiring. Children need to have listening breaks. Try to give a child extra clues and repeat instructions to help them to access the spoken word. For example, using gestures or pictures.

Get closer and speak clearly, avoid speaking from a distance and shouting.

